

63rd Session

East Liberty Association.

1898.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head -- the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election, and the doctrine of original sin, and man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

5. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are only subjects of the ordinances, and that the true mode of baptism is immersion.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

8. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as have been called of God, as was Aaron, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in fellowship in the church of which he is a member.

interested in the education of their children and many of them are doing all in their power to give them every possible advantage in this direction.

There is need, however, to call attention to our denominational schools—schools unsectarian, yet established and controlled by the denomination. In Alabama we have the Howard College and the Judson Institute. These colleges were founded by our fathers; in their upbuilding is represented their prayers and efforts and money. Leaving out of the question our loyalty as Baptists to our own institutions, these schools come to us soliciting our patronage upon their merits. They offer superior advantages. Especially is this true as to the religious atmosphere prevailing throughout their management. This feature is beyond estimate in money value. Upon this depends in large measure the best possibilities for our children.

Ministerial education certainly demands our sympathy and help. The happy solution of many of our gravest problems is to be found in giving to our rising ministry the added power of cultured intellects. Are there not within our own bounds some young brethren who are worthy of our aid in this direction?

Another most important phase of ministerial education is offered in the work of our Institute Board, under the charge of Rev. G. S. Anderson, of Auburn, Ala. The work of this Board is specially adopted to the educational needs in the way of Bible study and sermon preparation of that large and influential class of preachers who are on the field and cannot be touched by our schools and colleges. We commend the work of this Board to our brethren.

W. C. BLEDSON,
Chm. Committee.

12. The report was discussed by J. G. Harris, G. A. Hornady, W. J. D. Upshaw, W. C. Bledson, J. W. Hamner, J. D. Norman, and on motion, was adopted.

13. The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That there be added to the list of standing committees a committee on the work of the Institute Board.

14. After reports of committee on Religious Services and committee on Entertainment, the Association, on motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

15. Benediction by J. W. Hamner.

EVENING SERVICES.

16. J. W. Stewart preached at Roanoke, and C. C. Heard at the Bethel meeting house.

WEDNESDAY—Oct. 5, 1898.

17. The Association met at 9 o'clock a. m., and devotional exercises were conducted by J. W. Stewart.

18. The following brethren were welcomed to seats as correspondents and visitors: G. S. Anderson, Corresponding

Secretary Institute Board; Z. D. Roby, Tuskegee Association; Hugh Wallace, Tuskegee Association; A. S. Smith, Harris Association; J. C. Motly, J. N. Mann, Carey Association.

19. On motion, a committee was appointed consisting of G. A. Hornady and W. J. D. Upshaw to prepare a report on Institute Board, to be submitted to this meeting and inserted in minutes.

20. Reports on Foreign, Home and State Missions were read by the Chairman of each, as follows:

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your committee would call attention to several "items of special interest" which are contained in the report of the Foreign Mission Board, as it appears in the minutes of the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention at Norfolk, Va., in May last.

That report shows that there were 701 baptisms in connection with our work on foreign fields last year. The total receipts for the year were \$124,249.09. There are now connected with the work seventy-six missionaries and one hundred and seventeen native assistants.

There has been an increase in contributions to Foreign Missions in the States of Arkansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia. Alabama decreased in her contributions \$612 55.

That the Board was able to go to the Convention at Norfolk with the debt of the previous year entirely wiped out, (said debt amounting to more than thirteen thousand dollars) and with nearly three thousand dollars in the treasury, was due not to what Alabama had done, but to the enlarged work in the states before named. We are aware that some of our brethren are opposed to certain comparisons; and yet, as such comparisons find a place in the report of the Foreign Mission Board, we take courage and make them here, even though they be to our shame.

The smallest average per member of any state connected with the work of the Foreign Mission Board was made in Arkansas. The next smallest appears in the report from Missouri. Then in order comes North Carolina, Florida and Alabama—the latter with an average contribution per month of four and nine-tenths cents.

The State of Virginia has within her bounds twenty-four Associations, five hundred and twenty-four preachers, nine hundred and twenty-seven churches, and 116,188 members. The State of Alabama has within her bounds seventy-seven Associations, nine hundred and forty-nine preachers, one thousand seven hundred and thirteen churches, one hundred and nineteen thousand four hundred and fifty-four members. Virginia Baptists gave for Foreign Missions \$23,370.52. Alabama Baptists gave for Foreign Missions \$5,950.74. Alabama has three times as many associations as there are in Virginia; nearly twice as many preachers, twice as many churches, and three thousand more members; and yet Virginia Baptists gave four times as much for Foreign Missions as did Alabama Baptists.

Is it out of place to compare the work of 119,000 Baptists—Missionary Baptists—with the work of 116,000 Missionary Baptists? We think not. The only possible objection is found in the fact that the comparison shows that the 116,000 are more imbued with the missionary spirit than are the 119,000—and we feel ashamed of it. We have failed to come to a full knowledge of the truth if we have failed to

learn that the commission makes it to become the purpose of every Christian's life to be the forerunner of Christ, to prepare the way for His coming. The command has gone forth to every disciple to prepare the way of the Lord, to go before Christ to souls to whom the Saviour would come, and the true Christian must obey.

John the Baptist is the type of the modern Christian more than John the Evangelist in this matter, for the mission of Baptists to-day is not so much to see visions or reveal the will of Christ to the world as to prepare the way for the Christ to come to every heart which he by his influence would reach. The gospel is to be taken to men. If the heathen are to be brought to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, if they are to be led to break with their idols of wood and stone and turn to the living God, we must bring the gospel to them by the use of money as an instrument for use in the hands of our Board. And yet we Alabama Baptists are falling far short of our duty in reference to this matter. We think that our failure is due, in large measure, to the fact that we are lacking in conception of the spirit of Christ.

The Christian is of divine ordainment, to be a saving influence in the world. To do this he must have the spirit of self-sacrifice, which is the spirit of Christ. Let Christians learn to live for Christ, and not self, and they at once become invincible. Anything else than this self-sacrifice is selfishness, and selfishness always stands in the way of service. We should seek to know what Christ took up the cross for. Beyond all question His purpose in cross bearing should be ours. He bore the cross that He might save souls. This is what we are to aim at. Self-sacrifice should be for the salvation of others. How is salvation to be carried to the millions that have it not? It must be at the cost of self sacrifice for souls. When we hunger to see souls won to Christ, then we will be ready to deny self. Then we will be ready to put Christ first in our life, his spirit will control us, the thought of his desire for the world's salvation will shape our conduct, and we shall bring the world to Him. We may be sure that no one will find his truest mission till he has stamped upon himself the mark of a great sacrifice. Christian character must ever be warped, misshapen and distorted till the spirit of service has inoculated it; then our work for Christ will be in keeping with our view of him.

The empiricism of the cross is this: "Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us."

The sacrifice of Christ is the expression of the divine ideal; it is the declaration of God that the heart of God beats for every man; that his sympathy undergirds, his tender affection over-arches every soul; it is the heavenly proclamation that God's love only finds its highest exaltation in its lowest descent. As God loved us so must we love him. Love always works, and we can measure our love by our willingness to work for its sake. The spirit of service and of self-sacrifice is a transmutation of the spirit of love.

We may stress doctrines and insist much on the observance of ordinances, but our Christian life can never be worth the living till Christ be formed within the hope of glory and we look to the cross for that inspiration which shall lead us to seek to do his will and to be more and more like him.

Let us learn the spirit of self-sacrifice, and the most remote isles of the sea will see upon their shores the footsteps of those that publish glad tidings and bring to peoples long in darkness the light of God's redemption day and the peace of an everlasting salvation.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. HORNADY.

HOME MISSIONS.

The minutes of the last session of the S. B. C. held at Norfolk, Va., show that our Home Board made one of the best reports it has ever been privileged to make.

During the last Conventional year the Home Board had under its employ 467 Missionaries, against 379 for the previous year; the amount raised and expended on the field for Home Missions was \$54,251.04, against \$45,671.82, for the previous year. There was collected and expended in building houses of worship on the field \$56,385.46, against \$51,540, for the previous year, making a total of money raised on the field \$110,636.50, against \$97,211.82, for the previous year, making a total of money raised on the field the preceding year \$97,211.82; an increase of \$13,424.68. Total cash received from all sources by the Board was \$86,887.27, against \$83,184.31, for the previous year; an increase of \$3,702.91.

The Home Board, in making the report to our last Convention, calls attention to the work done, and contributions from the W. M. U. every year since they have been organized. Their help to the Home Board has been increased; last year they gave to the Home Board \$35,636.24, an increase of \$5,704.93, for the previous year. Since the organization of the W. M. U. in 1888, it has contributed in boxes and cash \$22,705.36. The Lord is blessing the efforts of our consecrated women to help send and help to sustain our missionaries as they go forth in the name of Christ to preach the gospel.

Your committee is gratified to know that our contributions for missions are increasing every year, and that our Boards are enabled to employ more missionaries, and that the number of baptisms increase every year; but we have some doubts as to whether our Home Board is making any real progress in its work and what is true of the Home Board may be true of the Foreign Board, and we do not mean to offer one word of criticism on either of the Boards or any body connected with them, nor do we mean to criticise any work done by them; neither the wise and judicious expenditure of the funds sent to them. We simply mean that the small, very small increase of our contributions to our Boards every year and the increase in membership to our churches are not in proportion to the population and the increase of wealth among our people. Let us read you what the Home Board says on this subject in making its report to the last Convention:

In 1845, when the S. B. C. was organized, the entire population of its territory was about eight million. Of these about six million had reached the age of accountability, of that number about one million two hundred thousand were members of evangelical churches; leaving the unevangelized part of our population but two million seven hundred and fifty thousand. To day the same territory holds within its limits 25,000,000, of whom more than 21,000,000 are accountable beings; of these not exceeding 8,000,000 make any profession of religion, leaving 12,000,000 of unregenerated accountable beings. Thus we are confronted with the fact that notwithstanding all the efforts of our churches, Missions, Boards, the unevangelized part of our population has in fifty years increased from less than 3,000,000 to four times that number. So we see that the proportion of evangelical Christians to that of the unconverted masses is becoming less every year. This fact is all the sadder when we remember that this is true in this Christian land of ours, a land of Bibles, Sunday schools, churches and Mission Boards. Does this look like that we are hastening on to the time when a nation shall be born in a day and when righteousness and holiness shall cover the earth as the

waters that cover the great deep?

The Home Board calls attention to another fact which ought to produce a feeling of sadness in our hearts, and that is that in all the Southern States Richmond is the only city where the Baptists are stronger than other denominations, and that in many cities they lag far in the rear of other churches.

Respectfully submitted.

J. P. HUNTER, Chairman.

STATE MISSIONS.

This department of the mission work of the Baptists of Alabama is under the management of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, of which Rev. W. C. Bledsoe, D. D., is the Corresponding Secretary. In discussing the work and the responsibilities of this Board, let it be remembered in the first place, that into its hands is given the interests of all the mission work to which the denomination is committed in Alabama—Foreign, Home and State. By mutual agreement entered into some years ago, the Home and Foreign Boards withdrew their special paid agents from this territory with the understanding that the State Board would keep their interests prominently before the denomination. This fact is mentioned that we may appreciate the further fact that in supporting the State Board we indirectly help all the interests of missions. The work of the Board, so far as it relates to operations within the State, is divided into two departments:

1. Evangelistic. Two years ago six general evangelists were employed; this year four with the assistance of the Corresponding Secretary are engaged in this work. They are commissioned to go among the churches and strive to awaken deeper interest in the cause of missions, and, as far as possible, to preach the gospel in destitute places.

2. Missionary Pastoral Work. This department of the Board's work, of which it has done more or less since its organization, has been to aid weak churches at important points throughout the State. The story of this work makes the most brilliant page in our history. There are to-day a large number of strong and self-supporting churches that were planted by the State Board and nurtured through weakness to strength. This work can but commend itself to every thoughtful Baptist.

Your committee calls special attention to the present needs of the Board. Owing to the double epidemics of yellow fever and smallpox last year, the Board went to the Convention last year burdened with a heavy debt. The continued financial depression of the past twelve months has been felt most keenly; but the Corresponding Secretary informs the committee that there is fair prospect of emerging from debt by the first of next month. This happy condition depends upon the collections for the present month. Your committee trusts that the East Liberty Association will do her part in giving sympathy and support to this Board.

In addition to the above synopsis of work, there are a number of Associational Missionaries and Colporters who do their work under the auspices of the State Board, which makes record of the same and presents it to the State Convention.

A. S. BRANNAN, Chairman.

21. The reports were discussed by G. A. Hornady, J. P.

Hunter, W. C. Bledsoe, J. D. Norman, G. W. Stevens, J. W. Stewart, H. Wallace.

22. Pending discussion, on motion, adjourned to 1:30 p. m. Benediction by A. S. Smith.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

23. The Association was called to order by the Moderator and A. S. Smith conducted a devotional service.

24. Discussion of the Mission reports was continued by Z. D. Roby, J. G. Harris.

25. A free will offering was made to aid Bro. Z. D. Roby, amounting to \$29.41, pending the discussion, and then the reports on Missions were adopted.

26. The committee on Institute Board made report as follows:

REPORT ON INSTITUTE WORK.

Your committee feel that too much stress cannot be made on the importance of the work of the Institute Board, having for its object the development of our field ministry. We believe that upon its success will depend, in large measure, the success of all our denominational interests. Two means for improvement are afforded the preacher on the field: Institutes held at various points in the State under the supervision of Rev. G. S. Anderson, the Secretary of the Board, and the Correspondence Course, which has for its vehicle The Sermonizer, published monthly at Auburn, Ala. Seventy names are now enrolled for the correspondence course next term. Nine Institutes have been held, attended by 133 preachers. The paper is constantly increasing its list of subscribers. Everywhere we see the value of this work. The preachers are being helped, and, as a result, the churches are helped. When its influence shall have extended itself, as we trust it shall, throughout other States we confidently look for an improvement in all of our denominational work.

The brethren enlisted in Institute work and giving to it their hearty encouragement in contributions, are in thorough sympathy and co-operation with all the enterprises of the denomination. They none the less esteem our general work, but just now believe the Institute work to be the solution of our many denominational difficulties. Their sympathies are in touch with every interest and they are helping all along the line. Similar broadmindedness in all our circles is now a necessity if we would adopt wisest measures and achieve greatest success.

We submit as a conclusion to this report the following burning words from the address of the Executive Committee of the Institute Board:

To do this work requires money to meet the expenses incurred, and the more given us the more help we can extend. The volume of your contributions will fix the boundaries of our ability to help these preachers in their study and work.

We believe that it is a sacred obligation to help these brave and faithful preachers of the gospel. We believe that to aid these hundreds of preachers who are leading our Baptist hosts in Alabama, is

the surest, quickest and most Scriptural way to touch and help all of our churches and denominational interests in the State; and we most earnestly solicit thoughtful pastors in every section to aid us in the work which we have commissioned Dr. Anderson to do. Our ministers may aid us vastly. Will they help us or hinder us? This is a serious question, and we pray that it may be answered in the spirit of the blessed Master who called these men to work in His vineyard.

Contributions for this work should be sent direct to Rev. G. S. Anderson, Secretary, Auburn, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. HORNADY,
W. J. D. UPSHAW.

27. The report was discussed by G. S. Anderson and adopted.

28. Pledges for next year's work were taken. (See close of minutes.)

29. Report on Orphanage was read as follows:

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

Your committee are glad that our people have become awakened to their duty to care for indigent orphans. It was a long time that the Scriptural saying, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions," seemed to have but little meaning for us. Our Orphanage has now been in existence more than five years. Our property, worth several thousand dollars, has been paid for, and important improvements have been made so that we can now take care of about seventy-five children. These improvements cost about \$3,500, and are all paid for except about \$150. There is in addition to this a current debt of about \$600. If our people would remember that "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord," there would not be a debt for food again.

Since the home started there have been gathered into it ninety-six children from twenty-two counties, as follows: Autauga 2, Barbour 3, Bibb 2, Butler 3, Chambers 1, Conecuh 2, Covington 8, Elmore 2, Escambia 11, Jefferson 12, Lee 6, Limestone 1, Marengo 4, Monroe 4, Morgan 3, Montgomery 4, Pike 2, Russell 1, Talladega 8, Tallapoosa 2, Tuscaloosa 9, Walker 6. Out of it have gone by apprenticeship two boys, returned to their people seven boys, seven girls, by adoption eleven boys, eleven girls. One boy and one girl have died, leaving in the Orphanage now twenty-one boys and thirty-three girls.

Those who are old enough attend the Agricultural School. All attend Sunday school and church. Fifteen of them have been baptized. The current expense now will amount to about \$5.00 a month for each child.

It is desired to dedicate the Home very soon, and we should all help to pay the small indebtedness so that it can be offered to God free from debt. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. L. BELL, Chairman.

30. The report was discussed by J. W. Stewart, Z. D. Roby, J. D. Norman, and the report was adopted.

31. On motion, adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.
Prayer by J. W. Stewart.

EVENING SERVICES.

32. J. W. Stewart preached at Bethel meeting house.
G. A. Hornady at Roanoke. J. G. Harris lectured at Stroud.

THURSDAY—Oct. 6, 1898.

33. The Association was called to order by the Moderator and devotional exercises were conducted by Z. D. Roby.

34. The report on Religious Literature was read as follows:

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

In these days of cheap printing a great stream of literature pours into homes of our people. A very great proportion of it is foul and hurtful. To guard the home against this foulness and hurtfulness is a solemn duty that should be realized by every good citizen, to say nothing of God's people.

One of the most effective means of neutralizing the poisonous effects of impure literature is to fill the home with pure literature. Consign to flames that which is hurtful and place in its stead that which is uplifting. While the moral and spiritual condition of many a boy and girl has been hurt and in many instances ruined by evil books and papers, on the other hand thousands have been saved from hurt and ruin by good books and papers. Your committee would especially urge upon Christian parents the duty evidently imposed upon them in this matter.

We commend the Alabama Baptist to your cordial support, and the Sermonizer, together with the Foreign Mission Journal and the Home Field, should find a place in our homes. The lesson helps of the Southern Baptist Convention, published by J. M. Frost, Nashville, Tenn., are also earnestly recommended, and the work of the American Baptist Publication Society.

R. A. J. CUMBEF, Chairman.

35. The report was amended by adding the last clause as it appears above, and was then adopted.

36. The report on Temperance was read as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

A report on temperance is intended to portray to the mind of this body the evil of intoxicating drink as it afflicts individuals, churches and society, with practical suggestions as to the best methods of meeting the baleful influence. The drink bill of the United States is \$1,200,000,000 annually. More than the income from the bread, meat and cotton crop of the country. It is said by our most reliable statisticians that 100,000 inebriates are destroyed in its annual harvest. This crowning evil of the age is patronized by our general government, which fattens its revenue on its authorized wholesale crime. It is the most flagrant and high-handed iniquity that insults high heaven and menaces and debauches mankind.

As an Association, in our immediate relations to this monster vice

we have within our bounds three distilleries legalized by the government that manufacture 7,500 gallons per annum, besides seven individual fruit distilleries which manufacture 1,800 gallons. The manufacture is the source of the evil. When made it must be drank; it is never poured out or wasted. It takes men and boys to consume the product, for beasts won't drink it. A large output of intoxicating drink means an increased harvest of drunkards drawn from our ranks of husbands, brothers, sons and neighbors.

Within our bounds we have five towns, LaFayette, Roanoke, Camp Hill, Dadeville and Lanette, which license the sale of liquor. These towns are therefore the storm centres of organized wickedness, of social corruption and moral blight in our midst. The baleful influence thus legalized by these places constantly jeopardizes our home life, our citizenship, our business interests and the order and spirituality of our churches.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

We recommend

1st. That measures for the prohibition of the sale of intoxicants in these places be advocated and supported by our members.

2d. That vigilant efforts be made by the churches and members to forestall the young by training and warning against the temptation to this evil.

3d. That the churches maintain a faithful discipline against the evil.

4th. That the conscience of our people be appealed to against the evil, and its manufacture and sale be so constantly rebuked by righteous living and warning; that all its advocates be so persistently ostracised that it may cower in shame and dissolve in failure.

J. L. GREGORY.

37. The report was discussed by G. A. Hornady, W. J. D. Upshaw, J. D. Norman, G. W. Newman, and the report was adopted.

38. The report on Sunday Schools was read as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We regard the Sunday school interest in our church work as very important. While it is not specially for children, yet it is foundation work, and therefore should be of the very best character. It is the opinion of your committee that a great deal of our Sunday school work is superficial; the pupil and teacher alike only study the literature, without giving special attention to God's word as its own interpreter. Then, oftentimes the teacher confines his questions to those of the lessons, thus following in a stereotyped way in the same ruts.

Again, we believe that the idea which many people have, that the Sunday school is for children only, is grossly absurd. It is true that all children who are at all susceptible of being instructed ought to be in Sunday school every Lord's day. But it is the duty of every member of each church to attend the Sunday school each Sunday, if not providentially hindered, instead of walking over the farm or visiting his neighbor and preventing him from going to God's house to worship. This is a very hurtful and sinful habit of many of our church members to-day.

In the next place, it is important to have the very best officers and

teachers possible to be had; those who are punctual and enthusiastic in the work and sound in the faith of the gospel, and above all, truly pious and consecrated in life. Then the pastor should be always in touch with the Sunday school.

Lastly, we would call special attention to the kind of literature that we should use in our schools. Of course, the Bible is the book above all books, but as helps to the study of the Bible in Sunday school, we would most earnestly insist that we use the Southern Baptist Literature published at Nashville, Tenn., for the following reasons: First, it is the work of our own Southern Baptist Convention. Second, it is equal to any other literature published. Third, the seventh annual report of Dr. J. M. Frost exhibits very fine success. For this we refer you to the minutes of the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is as follows: Gifts in Bibles, books, tracts, etc., \$15,022.33; cash to Home and Foreign Missions, \$17,303.20; cash to Sunday school missions in different states, \$18,749.55; expended for other denominational interests, \$3,861.83; purchase of a house, \$10,621.99; invested reserve fund, \$1,000.00; cash balance on hand, \$416.95; other assets, \$11,548.84; total, \$87,524.69 seven years. With this mighty force at work, with the 100,000 teachers and more and the 611,612 pupils, this work with the blessings of God will result in much and lasting good. There are in the Southern States 9,770 Sunday schools and 18,922 churches. Only one-half of our churches are at work in this line. Let us not rest until every church within the South shall meet every Lord's day to study God's word.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. UPSHAW.

39. The report was adopted after brief discussion by G. S. Anderson, J. D. Norman, W. H. Stewart, Z. D. Roby.

40. Report on Religious Condition of Churches was read and adopted as follows:

RELIGIOUS CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES.

. Your committee finds the religious condition of the churches not so good as last reported. Some of the churches we find have not met in full their pledges to the Association, and this indicates to us a decline in spirituality. We have not received more than one half as many members into our churches as last year, and this indicates that we are not in a healthy spiritual condition. As David says, "It seems that the joy of the salvation is gone." When this is true, we cannot teach transgressors the way of the Lord. Neither will sinners be converted unto him.

J. O. BLEDSOE.

41. Location fifth Sunday meetings:

1. Eagle Creek, fifth Sunday in October, 1898.
2. Jackson's Gap, fifth Sunday in January, 1899.
3. Rock Spring, fifth Sunday in April, 1899.
4. Rock Mills, fifth Sunday in July, 1899.

42. Committee on Nominations reported as follows, and report was adopted:

NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee on Nominations, report:

For Executive Committee—John P. Shaffer, R. A. J. Cumbee, Jos.

H. Johnson, W. C. McIntosh, G. J. Sorrell, Jas. Johnson, W. S. Heron, Wm. C. Roeck.

To preach next annual sermon—Elder Geo. L. Bell; alternate J. P. Hunter.

We would respectfully recommend that the Executive Committee continue in the work of aiding weak churches within the bounds of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. C. ROECK, Chairman.

43. Finance committee made report and same was adopted: (See close of minutes.)

44. It was agreed to hold next session with Beulah church, Lee county, Ala., beginning on Tuesday after first Sunday in October, 1899.

45. Moderator announced standing committees. (See further on.)

46. Clerk was allowed \$25 out of minute fund for services.

47. The thanks of the body were voted to the people of Bethel and vicinity for their generous hospitality.

48. Adjourned to meet with Beulah church on Tuesday after first Sunday in October, 1899, and after singing a hymn and extending the hand of parting, the closing prayer was offered by Z. D. Roby.

J. L. GREGORY,

Moderator.

W. C. BLEDSOE,

Secretary.

PLEDGES.

Antioch -----	\$ 30 00	Lebanon -----	\$ 20 00
Beulah -----	30 00	Liberty -----	10 00
Bethlehem -----	60 00	Lanette -----	30 00
Bethel Lee -----	15 00	Mary -----	
Bethel Church -----	50 00	Milltown -----	40 00
Cusseta -----	100 00	Mt. Zion -----	10 00
County Line -----	100 00	New Hope -----	50 00
Center -----	25 00	Providence -----	20 00
Camp Hill -----	75 00	Pleasant Ridge -----	20 00
Dadeville -----	150 00	Roanoke -----	250 00
Eagle Creek -----	20 00	Rock Spring, C -----	40 00
Farmville -----	40 00	Rock Spring, T -----	
Five Points -----	10 00	Rock Mills -----	25 00
Fellowship, T -----	10 00	River View -----	15 00
Fellowship, R -----		Sandy Creek -----	25 00
High Pine -----	10 00	Shiloh -----	10 00
LaFayette -----	200 00	Tallapoosa -----	25 00
Langdale -----	25 00	Waverly -----	20 00

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The churches have sent up in cash and vouchers :

For State Missions -----	\$ 380 86
Home Missions -----	215 85

Foreign Missions	306 84
Institute Board	287 86
Ministerial Education	122 95
Aged and Infirm Ministers, &c	77 25
Orphanage	209 24
Minutes	62 27
Aid to weak churches	268 47
Howard College	32 92
Total	\$1964 51

We have examined Treasurer's vouchers and find them correct.

W. R. DAWSON, Chairman.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Bethlehem, for missions	\$ 20 00
Center, for missions	13 00
Camp Hill, for missions	50 00
Dadeville, for missions	45 50
Pleasant Ridge, for missions	7 36
Roanoke, for missions	56 39
Rock Mills, for missions	1 50
Jackson's Gap, for missions	6 40
Total	\$200 15

CONTRIBUTIONS BY SUNBEAMS FOR MISSIONS.

Dadeville	\$ 2 00
Roanoke	18 80—\$20 80

CONTRIBUTIONS BY WOMAN'S MISSION SOCIETIES.

Cusseta, by Society and Sunbeams, for missions	\$ 85 37
Dadeville, for missions	54 06
New Hope, for missions	25 80
Roanoke, for missions	18 00
Waverly, for missions	15 00—\$198 23

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Last year's contributions	\$2222 79
This year's contributions	1964 51
Difference	\$ 258 28
Last year, number baptized	521
This year, number baptized	172
Difference	349
Last year's total membership	4209
This year's total membership	4267
Increase	58
Number of Sunday Schools reported last year	29
“ “ “ this year	26
Decrease	3
Number of pupils in Sunday School last year	1896
“ “ “ this year	2082
Increase	186

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF EAST LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1897.

CHURCHES.

	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions	Institute Board.	Ministerial Education.	Aged and Infirm Preachers.	Orphanage.	Minutes.	Aid of Weak Churches.	Howard College.	Cash.	Vouchers.	Total.
Antioch	6 30	2 50	2 50	1 35	2 67	8 00	1 32	1 30	6 32	11 47	13 87	96	25 34
Bethel	17 37	5 00	17 30	10 63	6 00	8 00	21 39	1 00	17 37	1 00	17 37	18 37	35 74
Bethel, C.	10 32	2 50	7 80	12 90	2 50	2 50	3 00	12 30	10 80	43 03	38 01	81 04	42 30
Bethel, L.	16 11	2 50	17 30	12 35	2 50	2 50	3 00	12 30	10 80	15 30	27 00	42 30	185 33
Gassett	68 80	37 20	57 46	1 15	2 00	2 00	9 10	2 30	5 00	3 46	171 87	182 20	25 00
Center	4 00	2 00	20 33	95 00	2 00	2 00	5 00	1 22	3 10	13 95	172 26	182 20	100 00
County Line	30 67	7 00	20 33	25 00	6 00	3 00	10 00	3 00	25 87	56 23	43 77	106 71	228 66
Camp Hill	23 00	54 00	25 80	25 00	15 70	10 00	37 00	3 00	50 00	38 21	180 45	200 00	55 79
Dixie Creek	2 50	5 00	1 00	34 00	15 70	2 00	1 00	2 50	2 51	10 18	25 61	20 00	10 50
Edinville	2 07	2 00	13 20	10 32	1 00	2 00	2 00	1 40	2 51	11 40	6 00	11 40	9 85
Five Points	2 00	2 00	1 00	2 50	1 00	2 00	2 00	1 40	1 85	11 25	3 35	11 25	302 67
Fellowship, T.	2 30	2 00	2 00	25 00	2 50	2 50	46 72	3 00	125 00	5 25	297 42	27 00	21 25
High Pine	3 00	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 50	2 50	1 35	10 00	12 00	15 00	12 00	12 00
La Fayette	12 00	2 00	2 00	3 00	2 00	2 00	2 30	2 00	10 00	12 00	12 00	12 00	41 02
Langdale	19 00	2 00	2 02	3 00	2 00	2 00	2 30	1 40	12 80	7 44	33 58	40 65	43 15
Liberty	3 00	3 00	6 10	4 55	2 00	4 00	6 20	1 50	20 50	2 00	4 00	11 00	68 24
Milltown	20 00	3 17	2 50	18 00	2 00	10 00	2 00	2 50	10 32	25 80	42 44	20 40	21 25
N. L. Zion	2 00	2 50	2 50	2 00	2 00	1 50	1 50	1 25	10 00	21 51	2 50	34 13	38 95
Providence	2 00	1 50	2 50	51 92	75 00	15 00	20 41	5 00	11 50	10 00	20 41	20 41	20 41
Pleasant Ridge	25 00	15 00	99 80	51 92	75 00	15 00	5 30	2 50	11 50	10 00	16 80	23 15	21 50
Rock	10 00	2 25	4 35	2 00	12 57	2 50	5 30	1 50	1 50	9 22	12 28	16 00	20 45
Rock Spring, C.	5 14	3 80	3 50	5 00	6 00	1 75	1 50	2 00	5 00	16 25	10 00	20 25	42 87
Rock Spring, T.	10 00	3 00	3 50	5 00	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	4 30	7 00	34 97	42 87	21 50
Rock Milk	5 00	3 00	3 50	5 00	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	4 30	7 00	34 97	42 87	21 50
River View	10 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	6 00	1 75	1 50	2 00	5 00	16 25	10 00	20 25	42 87
Sandy Creek	5 00	3 00	3 50	5 00	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	4 30	7 00	34 97	42 87	21 50
Shiloh	16 50	3 00	3 50	5 00	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	4 30	7 00	34 97	42 87	21 50
Tallapoosa	5 50	3 00	3 50	5 00	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	4 30	7 00	34 97	42 87	21 50
Waverly	5 50	3 00	3 50	5 00	6 00	3 00	3 00	1 50	4 30	7 00	34 97	42 87	21 50
Totals.	\$398 23	\$215 85	\$306 84	\$287 86	\$122 95	\$77 25	\$221 74	\$263 27	\$268 47	\$32 92	\$443 49	\$1451 80	\$1985 38

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Burden, C. J.	LaFayette, Ala.
Brannan, A. S.	Camp Hill, "
Bedell, W. H.	Waverly, "
Bledsoe, Jas. O.	Jackson's Gap, "
Bledsoe, W. C.	LaFayette, "
Bell, G. L.	Jackson's Gap, "
Cumbee, R. A. J.	Dadeville, "
Cumbee, John	Stroud, "
Culpepper, C. T.	Langdale, "
Cofield, W. P.	Fredonia, "
Cox, G. W.	Roanoke, "
Duffey, D. S.	Denver, "
Gregory, J. L.	Dudleyville, "
Heard, C. C.	LaFayette, "
Hornady, G. A.	LaFayette, "
Hunter, J. P.	LaFayette, "
Lloyd, W. E.	Auburn, "
McCarley, J. A.	Blackman, "
Newman, G. S.	LaFayette, "
Robinson, W. A.	Dadeville, "
Shaffer, J. P.	Dadeville, "
Smith, E. C.	Fredonia, "
Tucker, A. O.	Blackman, "
Upshaw, W. J. D.	Roanoke, "
Weaver, G. F.	Louina, "

LICENSED MINISTERS.

Davis, W. T.	LaFayette, Ala.
Freeman, Y. W.	Tohopeka, "
Guinn, J. M. K.	Langdale, "
Hester, R. B.	Roanoke, "
Partridge, J. W.	Dadeville, "

STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. On Foreign Missions—W. C. Bledsoe, Chairman; J. T. Hood, W. J. Busbee, C. P. Hunter.
2. On Home Missions—G. A. Hornady, Chairman; F. P. Bradfield, J. W. Grady, H. Jarrell.
3. On State Missions—G. L. Bell, Chairman; Jas. Johnson, R. Neighbors, G. L. Griffin.
4. On Institute Board—W. J. D. Upshaw, Chairman; Jas. D. Norman, A. D. Moore, I. T. Morgan.
5. On Education—J. P. Shaffer, Chairman; W. C. McIntosh, Geo. W. Stevens, G. W. Hill.
6. On Orphanage—A. S. Brannan, Chairman; W. T. Davis, W. W. Cofield, T. D. Lunceford.
7. On Sunday Schools—J. P. Hunter, Chairman; W. E. Shealey, Chas. Henderson, W. H. Betts.
8. On Temperance—W. P. Cofield, Chairman; W. C. Roeck, F. P. Nichols, A. S. Davis.
9. On Religious Literature—J. O. Bledsoe, Chairman; Z. F. East, T. Shank, J. L. Shepard.
10. On Religious Condition of the Churches—R. A. J. Cumbee, Chairman; C. C. Heard, M. L. Cook, G. L. Bell, Jr.

